



ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

Alan I. Leshner
Chief Executive Officer and
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June 2, 2009

The Honorable Christopher Dodd
U.S. Senate
448 Senate Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Vernon Ehlers
U.S. House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-2203

Dear Senator Dodd and Dr. Ehlers:

On behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) I applaud the bicameral efforts to advance science and mathematics education for our children. The overall goal of the Standards to Provide Educational Achievement for Kids (SPEAK) Act, which calls for voluntary nationwide standards to ensure that all American children receive a high-quality education in mathematics and science, reflects the objectives of AAAS's own science-education reform initiative, Project 2061.

The recent announcement that 46 states and the District of Columbia support uniform learning goals in reading and mathematics for children nationwide strikes a promising note for the U.S. educational system. Unfortunately, science was left out, and it is a mistake to overlook the central role science plays in all aspects of modern American life, particularly the U.S. economy. AAAS believes that all children, whether they live in Georgia, Connecticut or Michigan, or any other part of the United States, deserve the best possible education in science and mathematics. We must provide our children with the educational edge they will need to forge a positive path toward solving the global problems of the future, and the SPEAK Act is an important step towards this goal.

AAAS is the world's largest multi-disciplinary scientific society and the publisher of the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Science*. Fostering science and technology education for everyone and enhancing the science and technology workforce are essential parts of our mission. We stand ready to work with you and the U.S. Congress in addressing this critical subject. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Alan Leshner', written over a horizontal line.

Alan I. Leshner

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